



**UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY**

REGION II  
290 BROADWAY  
NEW YORK, NEW YORK 10007-1866

January 13, 2016

BY ELECTRONIC MAIL

Robert Law, Ph.D.  
de maximis, inc.  
186 Center Street, Suite 290  
Clinton, New Jersey 08809

Re: Lower Passaic River Study Area (LPRSA) Administrative Settlement Agreement and  
Order on Consent for Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study, CERCLA Docket No.  
02-2007-2009 - Benthic Community Exposure Depth

Dear Dr. Law:

On behalf of the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA), this is to follow up on EPA's letter dated November 19, 2015 and further respond to your letter dated November 13, 2015. Your letter provided the Dispute Resolution Statement of the Lower Passaic River Cooperating Parties Group (CPG) and addressed EPA's query whether to extend the informal Negotiation Period under Paragraph 64 of the Administrative Settlement Agreement and Order on Consent (AOC) for the Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study.

Having reviewed the Dispute Statement, we have concluded that the most productive path forward at this time is to end the Negotiation Period and submit this matter to Walter Mugdan, the Director of the Emergency and Remedial Response Division (ERRD), who will be the decision-maker in this dispute since the position of Strategic Integration Manager within Region 2 ERRD no longer exists. EPA staff will prepare a written statement for Mr. Mugdan's review, which we will forward to you.

Please let me know if you have any questions.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Jennifer LaPoma", is positioned above the typed name.

Jennifer LaPoma, Remedial Project Manager  
Lower Passaic River Study Area RI/FS